

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A leave-in hair cosmetic composition, comprising fluid-encapsulated, flexible microspheres exhibiting a mean particle size of less than about 300 μm in diameter, a water-soluble or water-swellaable polymer, and an aqueous carrier, wherein the combination of the polymer and the microspheres results in a solid continuous or semi-continuous film network.
2. A leave-in hair cosmetic composition, comprising:
 - (i) from about 0.25% to about 15%, by weight of the composition, of fluid-encapsulated, flexible microspheres which exhibit a mean particle size of less than about 300 μm in diameter;
 - (ii) from about 0.025% to about 10 %, by weight of the composition, of a water-soluble or swellaable polymer; and
 - (iii) an aqueous carrier,wherein the combination of the polymer and the microspheres results in a solid continuous or semi-continuous film network.
3. A leave-in hair cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, wherein said microspheres have a density of from about 5 kg/m^3 to about 200 kg/m^3 .
4. A leave-in hair cosmetic composition according to Claim 3, wherein said microspheres have a density of from about 5 kg/m^3 to about 100 kg/m^3 .
5. A leave-in hair cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, wherein said microspheres comprise a thermoplastic material wall.
6. A leave-in hair cosmetic composition according to Claim 5, wherein said thermoplastic material is a polymer or copolymer of at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylates, methacrylates, styrene, substituted styrene, unsaturated dihalides, acrylonitriles, and methacrylonitriles.
7. A leave-in hair cosmetic composition according to Claim 5, wherein said thermoplastic material is a polymer or copolymer comprising amide, ester, urethane, urea, ether, carbonate, acetal, sulfide, phosphate, phosphonate ester, and siloxane linkages.

8. A leave-in hair cosmetic composition according to Claim 6, wherein said thermoplastic material is a polymer or copolymer of at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylates, styrene, vinylidene chloride, acrylonitriles, and methacrylonitriles.
9. A leave-in hair cosmetic composition according to Claim 8, wherein said thermoplastic material is a copolymer of acrylonitrile and methacrylonitrile.
10. A leave-in hair cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, wherein said microspheres are permeable.
11. A leave-in hair cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, wherein said microspheres are non-permeable.
12. A leave-in hair cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, wherein said microspheres are expanded upon heating.
13. A leave-in hair cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, wherein said microspheres exhibit a mean particle size ranging from about 5 μ m to about 100 μ m.
14. A leave-in hair cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, wherein said microspheres exhibit a mean particle size ranging from about 8 μ m to about 80 μ m.
15. A leave-in hair cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, wherein surface of said microspheres is modified by attachment of an ionic group.
16. A leave-in hair cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, wherein surface of said microspheres is modified by attachment of an organic or inorganic material.
17. A leave-in hair cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, wherein the aqueous carrier is selected from the group consisting of a leave-in conditioning product, a leave-in styling product, a leave-in coloring product, and mixtures thereof.
18. A leave-in hair conditioning composition comprising:

- (i) from about 0.025% to about 10%, by weight of the composition, of a carboxylic acid/ carboxylate copolymer;
- (ii) from about 0.25% to about 10%, by weight of the composition, of fluid-encapsulated, flexible microspheres which exhibit a mean particle size of less than about 300 μ m in diameter; and
- (iii) an aqueous carrier,

wherein the combination of the copolymer and the microspheres results in a solid continuous or semi-continuous film.

19. A leave-in hair conditioning composition comprising:

- (1) a thickening system comprising at least two thickening agents selected from (i), (ii), and (iii):
 - (i) a hydrophobically modified cellulose ether;
 - (ii) an acrylate copolymer comprising by weight:
 - (a) from about 5% to about 80% of an acrylate monomer selected from the group consisting of a C₁-C₆ alkyl ester of acrylic acid, a C₁-C₆ alkyl ester of methacrylic acid, and mixtures thereof;
 - (b) from about 5% to about 80% of a monomer selected from the group consisting of a vinyl-substituted heterocyclic compound containing at least one of a nitrogen or sulfur atom, a (meth)acrylamide, a mono- or di-(C₁-C₄)alkylamino(C₁-C₄)alkyl-(meth)acrylate, a mono- or di-(C₁-C₄)alkylamino(C₁-C₄)alkyl(meth)-acrylamide, and mixtures thereof; and
 - (c) from 0% to about 30% of an associative monomer;
 - (iii) a crosslinked polymer having the formula (A)_m(B)_n(C)_p, wherein:
 - (A) is selected from the group consisting of a dialkylaminoalkyl acrylate, a quaternized dialkylaminoalkyl acrylate, an acid addition salt of a quaternized dialkylaminoalkyl acrylate, and mixtures thereof;
 - (B) is selected from the group consisting of a dialkylaminoalkyl methacrylate, a quaternized dialkylaminoalkyl methacrylate, an acid addition salt of a quaternized dialkylaminoalkyl methacrylate, and mixtures thereof;
 - (C) is a nonionic monomer polymerizable with (A) or (B); and
- (2) from about 0.25% to about 10%, by weight of the composition, of fluid-encapsulated,

flexible microspheres which exhibit a mean particle size of less than about 300 μ m in diameter; and

(3) an aqueous carrier,

wherein the combination of the copolymer and the microspheres results in a solid continuous or semi-continuous film network.

20. A method for enhancing hair volume by applying to hair an effective amount of a composition according to Claim 1.
21. A method for enhancing hair volume by applying to hair an effective amount of a composition according to Claim 17.
22. A method for enhancing hair volume by applying to hair an effective amount of a composition according to Claim 18.
23. A method for enhancing hair volume by applying to hair an effective amount of a composition according to Claim 19.